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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/531,365 | 04/14/2005 | Dorothee Nerot | 09669/059001 | 6985 |

22511 7590 07/28/2006

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EXAMINER

IM, JUNGHWA M

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2811

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/531,365 | Applicant(s) NEROT ET AL. | |
| | Examiner Junghwa M. Im | Art Unit 2811 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/11/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement

1. The preliminary amendment filed on April 14, 2005 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 3-9 in the reply filed on May 12, 2006 is acknowledged.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed on April 14, 2005.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. Acknowledgement is made of applicants' Information disclosure Statement (IDS) Form PTO-1449, filed July 11, 2005. The information therein has been considered.

Claim Objections

5. Claim 6 is objected to because of the following informalities.

Regarding claim 6, it appears that "a second foolproofing edge" is in error, since the parent claim does not recite a first foolproofing edge. It is understood as -- two foolproofing edges--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3-4, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffen (US 6,071,758) in view of Haghiri-Tehrani et al. (US 4,460,825), hereinafter Haghiri-Tehrani.

Regarding claim 3, Fig. 4 of Steffen shows a support strip (1 in Fig. 1) comprising:

at least one support element (5, 7), wherein the support element comprises a conducting element having a contact pad (5) and a wiring pad (a portion where the wire 8 is connected).

Fig. 4 of Steffen shows most aspects of the instant invention, however, fails to show that at least one roughly parallel gripping area and the support element is connected to the at least one gripping area using a snap-off junction area. Fig. 16 of Haghiri-Tehrani shows a support strip (65) comprising at least one roughly parallel gripping area (shown as dashed lines along the leads 4) and the support element (carrier element inside the cast casing 63 and leads 4) is connected to the at least one gripping area using a snap-off (punch-out) junction area (col. 5, lines 16-20).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Haghiri-Tehrani into the support strip of Steffen in order to have the support element connected to the at least one gripping area using a snap-off junction area to reduce the steps of cutting and trimming of the IC module card.

Regarding claim 4, Fig. 1 of Steffen shows the support strip wherein the support element is a support grid.

Regarding claim 7, Steffen discloses that the support strip wherein the support element is metallic (col. 2, lines 64-66).

Regarding claim 9, Fig. 1 of Steffen shows that the support element is arranged to receive an electronic component (6).

8. Claims 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffen in view of Haghiri-Tehrani as applied to claims 3 and 4 above, and further in view of Nishikawa et al. (US 5,581,065), hereinafter Nishikawa.

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Steffen/Haghiri-Tehrani shows most aspect of the instant invention except “the support element comprises a foolproofing edge.” Fig. 2 of Nishikawa shows a support element (IC carrier) comprises a foolproofing edge (11b).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Nishikawa into the support element of Steffen/Haghiri-Tehrani in order to have the support element (IC carrier) comprising a foolproofing edge to secure the position of the carrier into the selected slot (col. 7, lines 13-15).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Steffen/Haghiri-Tehrani shows most aspect of the instant invention except “the support element has a contour whose geometry substantially complies with the standard GSM 11.11.” Nishikawa discloses a support element (chip carrier) which geometry complies with the standard GSM 11.11 (col. 22, lines 58-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Nishikawa into the support element of Steffen/Haghiri-Tehrani in order to have the support element (chip carrier) with a contour which geometry substantially complying with the standard GSM 11.11 to meet the European Telecommunication Standards.

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steffen in view of Haghiri-Tehrani as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Luu (US 6,641,049).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Steffen/Haghiri-Tehrani shows most aspect of the instant invention except “the support element comprises a second foolproofing edge.” Fig. 5A of Luu shows a support element (IC carrier) comprises a second foolproofing edge (two chamfered corners).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of Luu into the support element of Steffen/Haghiri-Tehrani in order to have the support element (IC carrier) comprising a second foolproofing edge to secure the positioning of two IC's.

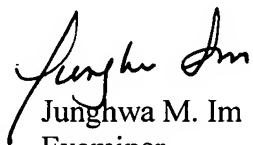
Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Junghwa M. Im whose telephone number is (571) 272-1655. The examiner can normally be reached on MON.-FRI. 8:30AM-5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie C. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-1732. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

 7/23/2006
Junghwa M. Im
Examiner
Art Unit 2811

jmi